



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Winnemucca Field Office ☐
Winnemucca, Nevada ☐ ☐

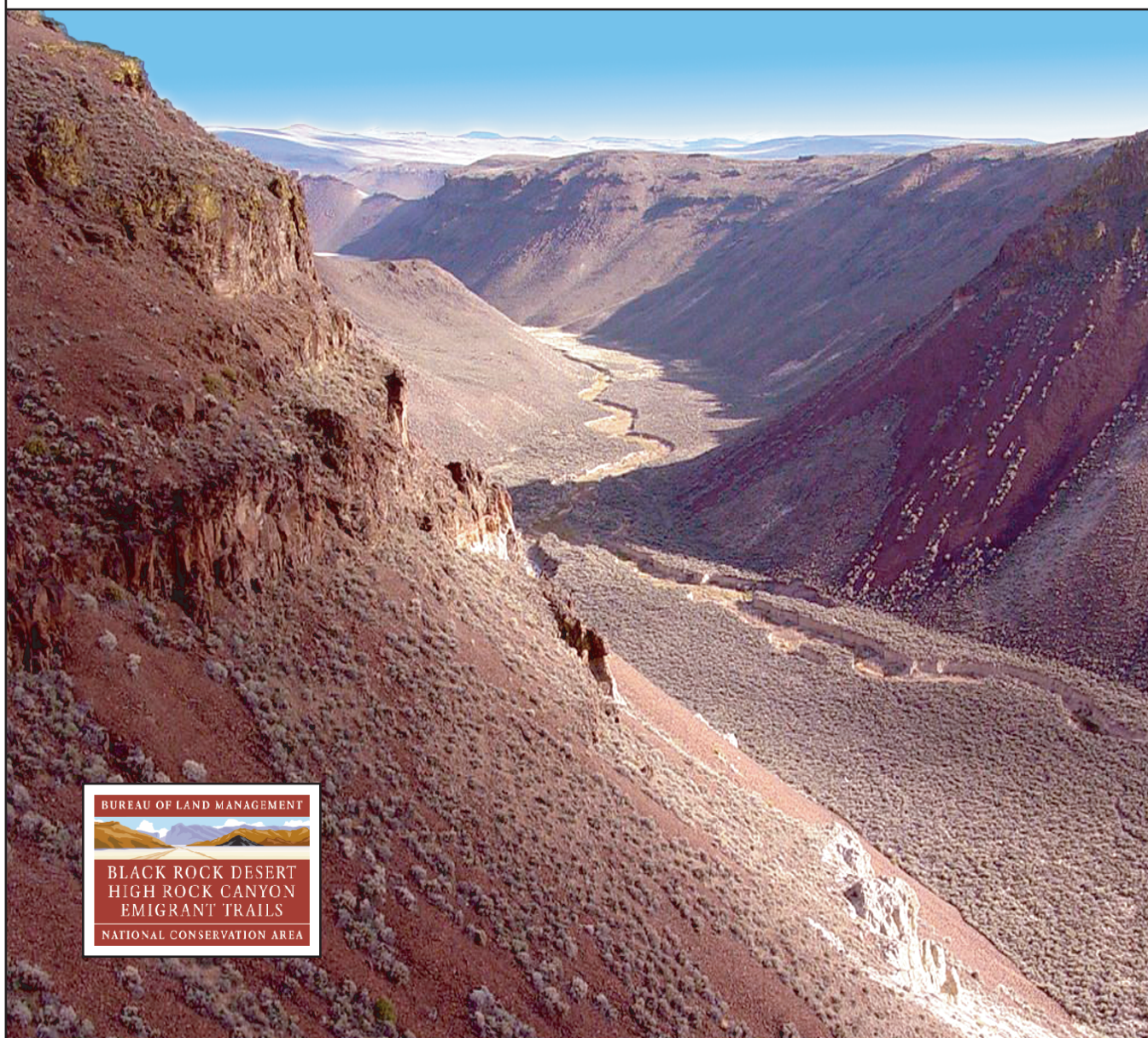
Surprise Field Office
Cedarville, California

September 2003



Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and Associated Wilderness, and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada

Volume 1



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/WN/PL-03/027+1793 for the Black Rock-High Rock Final EIS RMP

Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and associated wilderness, and other contiguous lands in Nevada

FINAL

Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Volume I

Prepared by:

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Winnemucca Field Office
Winnemucca, Nevada**

**Surprise Field Office
Cedarville, California**

September 2003

Nevada State Director

Date

California State Director

Date

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United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

In Reply Refer To:

1610 (NV-910/CA-910)

September 12, 2003

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your inspection are the Proposed Resource Management Plan (Proposed RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and Associated Wilderness, and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada. This Proposed RMP outlines the various decisions for management of renewable and non-renewable resources on approximately 1.2 million acres of public land in and contiguous with the NCA located in Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe counties, Nevada. The Proposed RMP is open for a 30-day protest period beginning with the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register (expected in mid-September 2003).

This Proposed RMP and FEIS have been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The PRMP is largely based on Alternative B, the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS and RMP released in February 2003. However, the Proposed RMP selectively adopts portions of the other three alternatives as recommended in public comments and by the Resource Advisory Council NCA Subgroup and other collaborators involved in the planning process in a manner that minimizes on-the-ground changes in management in the short-term while providing for flexibility to increase management intensity as public use increases and protecting the resources recognized in the enabling legislation.

This document contains a summary of the decisions and resulting impacts, an overview of the planning process and planning issues, the Proposed RMP, and a summary of comments received during public review of the Draft RMP and the responses to substantive issues raised by them.

The Proposed RMP may be protested by any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest that may be adversely affected by approval of the Proposed RMP. A protest may only raise those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2). Protests must be filed with the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

Regular mail protests should be sent to: Director (210), Attention - Brenda Williams, PO Box 66538, Washington DC 20035. Overnight Mail should be sent to: Director (210), Attention - Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street NW Ste 1075, Washington DC 20036. Emailed and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the email or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at (202) 452-5112, and emails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

All protests must be written and must be postmarked on or before the 30th day following publication by EPA of the notice of availability in the *Federal Register* and contain the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
- A statement of the part or parts of the document being protested.
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues previously submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
- A concise statement explaining precisely why the Bureau of Land Management Nevada and California State Directors' decision is believed to be wrong.

The Director, Bureau of Land Management, will promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

Upon resolution of any protests, an Approved Plan and Record of Decision will be issued. The Approved Plan/Record of Decision will be mailed to all individuals who participated in this planning process and all other interested publics upon their request.

Sincerely,

David C. Cooper
Manager
Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon
Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area